



April 14, 2023

Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments  
Senator Catherine Blakespear, Chair

**SB 929**

**OPPOSE**

Members of the Committee,

Election Integrity Project® *California*, Inc. (EIPCa) **Opposes SB 929** as written and amended as of the date of this letter.

It is stunning that this bill would even be under consideration at all, let alone after the Supreme Court ruling of March 4, 2024.

According to the **unanimous** ruling, "The Constitution makes Congress, rather than the states, responsible for enforcing section 3 against all federal officeholders and candidates."

While states retain the power to bar people running for state office from appearing on the ballot under Section 3, the ruling warned of the dangers of a patchwork of decisions around the country that could send elections into chaos if state officials had the freedom to determine who could appear on the ballot for president.

Even Governor Newsom issued a statement that "in California, we defeat candidates at the polls. Everything else is a political distraction."

And a political distraction it is. No one state or federal official in this country should ever have the right to be accuser, judge and jury for anyone. Only after an individual seeking federal office has been **officially** charged, arraigned, tried and convicted will Congress have a duty to invoke the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment prohibition against that person.

Until then, the highest imperative of the American judicial system is the absolute mandate: **Innocent until proven guilty.** NO ONE has the right to move against an individual on the basis of opinion or supposition.

SB 929 flies in the face of the most basic tenet of this Republic. Or, in common, though erroneous parlance, it is a threat to "our democracy." It should never see the light of day.

Sincerely,

ELECTION INTEGRITY PROJECT® *CALIFORNIA*, INC

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